

## From the Director of Victim Services



January 2022 marks the eighteenth annual National Stalking Awareness Month (NSAM), an annual call to action to recognize and respond to the serious crime of stalking. According to recent statistics, more than 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men will be stalked in their lifetime. While most stalking victims are female and the majority of perpetrators are male, anyone can be a victim or perpetrator of stalking.

While every case is different, people who stalk can be very dangerous. Stalkers may threaten, attack, sexually assault, and/or even kill their victims. The stalkers behavior may escalate from indirect ways of making contact, like phone calls or texts, to more direct contact like showing up where the person happens to be.

Even if a victim cannot control the stalking behavior, they should feel empowered to take steps to keep themselves, their families, and their loved ones safe. The stalking is not the fault of the victim. The victim cannot control the stalker's behaviors. Some typical steps would be to

Document everything that happens—keep a record or log.

Tell people you trust about the situation. See if your place of employment or building security at school can help you with safety planning.

Consider getting a court order to keep the stalker away from you. Call 911 if you are in imminent danger or have been threatened. Law enforcement can help you to explore your options. Remember, Love is Not Abuse and Abuse is Not Love.

Stay Safe!

*Tamika Dobbins*

## January 2022

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## Victim Services Mission

*To support victims, their families, and the laws that protect their rights, while utilizing recognized principles of offender behavioral change to help reduce the risk of repeat criminal behavior.*

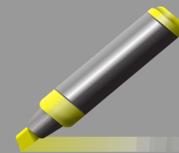
## Victim Services Provides:

- Information regarding the status of offenders in prison with felony convictions
- Registration for victim notification
- Assistance with threats, unwanted calls/correspondence from an offender

## Victim Services Activities:

- Community education programs
- Coordination with the Board of Parole, Attorney General's Office, and the Tennessee District Attorney General's Office to respond to victims' concerns
- Education to TDOC staff to increase awareness of victims' issues
- Collaboration with other victim advocates

# Victims Services Highlights....Let's meet



**Ebony Trammell** is the newly appointed Victim Services Program Specialist for the Tennessee Board of Parole. Mrs. Trammell is a Nashville native and has worked at the Board of Parole for three years. She started as a Clerk 3 and later promoted to Docket Tech 2 /Executive Clemency in Board Operations. Her passion for helping others is what helps keep her motivated in her daily life. She is married with 3 children and enjoys reading, baking, and making candles in her spare time. Welcome to Victim Services Ebony!



## January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

If you believe you are the victim of a trafficking situation or have information about a potential trafficking situation, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. Report a tip or request services using the following means:

Toll-free: 888-373-7888

TTY: 711

Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-855-55-TNHTH (86484)



# Victim Services Monthly Statistics

## Central Office Phone Calls

## Central Office Mailed Notifications

| Telephone Calls   | December | Notifications Mailed | December |
|---|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Phone calls Received/Returned                               | 193      | Registrations/Voice  | 77       |
| Parties Registered for Notifications (phone/mail/fax/email) | 133      | Movement             | 128      |
| Harassment/Threats/No Contact                               | 4        | Advance Release      | 491      |
| Referrals   | 37       | Final Release *      | 60       |
| Release/Parole Inquiry                                      | 98       | Death                | 18       |
| Other   | 63       | Other                | 8        |



## Notification Statistics By Delivery Method Report 12-01-2021 to 12-31-2021

| Agency                      | Month                 | Email | TTY | SMS    | Phone | InApp | Letter | Total  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-----|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| TN Department of Correction | December 2021         | 6,923 | 3   | 15,661 | 3,025 | 350   | n/a    | 25,962 |
|                             | <b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>  | 6,923 | 3   | 15,661 | 3,025 | 350   | n/a    | 25,962 |
|                             | <b>OVERALL TOTALS</b> | 6,923 | 3   | 16,661 | 3,025 | 350   | n/a    | 25,962 |

## New Registration Statistics By Registrant Classification 12-01-2021 to 12-31-2021

|                             |                       | Anonymous | Concerned citizen | Family member of offender | Family member of victim | Law enforcement | Not Reported | Other | Victim | Victim coordinator/advocate | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|-------|
| TN Department of Correction | December 2021         | 98        | 89                | 343                       | 194                     | 416             | 4,706        | 228   | 55     | 5                           | 6,134 |
|                             | <b>AGENCY TOTALS</b>  | 98        | 89                | 343                       | 194                     | 416             | 4,706        | 228   | 55     | 5                           | 6,134 |
|                             | <b>OVERALL TOTALS</b> | 98        | 89                | 343                       | 194                     | 416             | 4,706        | 228   | 55     | 5                           | 6,134 |

# Announcements



## Applications now open to attend the in-person Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy, June 5th-10th, 2022!

The Senator Tommy Burks Victim Assistance Academy is a project of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Academy is a comprehensive basic level training designed for victim service providers. The goal of the Academy is to improve services to crime victims by enhancing the knowledge and skills of victim advocates. This 40 hour Tennessee-specific training is modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy.

Join us at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for this week-long training June 5th-10th, 2022!

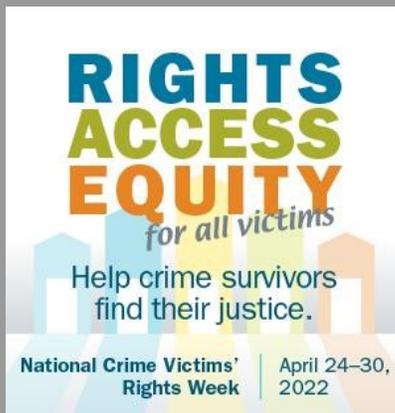
A limited number of applicants will be accepted.

**The deadline to apply is March 30th.**

**Questions about applying or the Academy?**

**Contact Megan Batista**

**training@tncoalition.org**



### WHAT VICTIMS CAN DO IF THEY'RE A

Tennessee Domestic Violence Hotline - 800-356-6767

National Domestic Violence Hotline - 800.799.SAFE

Battered Women's Justice Project - 800.903.0111

Mothers Against Drunk Driving - 877.MADD.HELP

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - 800.843.5678

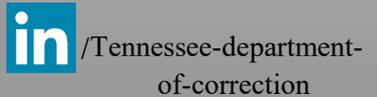
Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline—1-855-558-6484

National Human Trafficking Hotline - 888.373.7888

Sexual Assault Center 24 Hour Crisis & Support: 1-866-811-RISE (7473)

Stay Connected  
With #TeamTDOC!

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## Tennessee Department of Correc-

Victim Services Division  
5th Floor Rachel Jackson Building  
320 6th Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243  
Phone: 615-253-8145  
Fax: 615-741-1055  
Email: Victim.Notification@tn.gov

**Tamika Dobbins**  
Victim Services Director  
Tamika.Dobbins@tn.gov

**Betsy Fletcher**  
Executive Secretary  
Betsy.Fletcher@tn.gov